



Erickson Educational Foundation

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

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NEW YORK SYMPOSIUM ON TS

An overflow audience of several hundred attended a symposium on transexualism sponsored by the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex on February 4th. Moderated by Wardell B. Pomeroy, former associate of the late Alfred Kinsey, the discussion of the physiological, psychological and legal problems encountered in sex reassignment was structured by a panel of authorities in the field, including Charles Ihlenfeld, M.D., associate of Dr. Harry Benjamin, Richard Levidow, attorney, Marie Mehl, EEF Director of Education and Research, Robert V. Sherwin, attorney, and Leo Wollman, M.D.

A lively discussion followed 5-minute presentations by each panel member. The broad spectrum of topics included diagnosis, therapy aspect—group and individual—need for progress and education in the medical, legal, police, social and rehabilitation fields, surgical processes, and costs, follow-up on post-operative results, name change, birth certificate revision. (It was brought out that the states of Arizona, Illinois, Louisiana and Mississippi have legislation providing for birth certificate change. In other states it is a department administration decision.)

The time was all too limited to cover the subject in depth, but we look forward to further similar programs. EEF will be glad to cooperate in any such programs initiated by other organizations or institutions.

The Society for the Scientific Study of Sex ("Quadruple S") is a 14-year-old interdisciplinary professional organization dedicated to the dissemination of information regarding sex research. For details concerning membership and subscription to *The Journal of Sex Research* write: SSSS, Suite 1104, 12 East 41st St., New York 10016.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Erickson Educational Foundation is dedicated to assist where "human potential is limited by physical, mental or social conditions, or where scope of research is too new, controversial, or imaginative to encourage traditionally oriented support."

CHURCH ASSISTS CHANGE

Rev. Harry A. Thor of the Binghamton, N. Y. Unitarian Universalist Church, cooperated unusually in helping a parishioner who had undergone male-to-female sex reassignment. Rev. Thor wrote two successive articles in the church weekly, BEACON, based on EEF pamphlet material concerning the transexual condition, so that the congregation could better understand the necessity for the change.

The parishioner gave a talk at the church on her life before and after the operation, followed by a taped telephone conversation between Rev. Thor and her psychiatrist Dr. Robert Laidlaw, former head of psychiatry at Roosevelt Hospital, N. Y. The general reaction of the congregation was, "Why didn't someone help this person before this?"

CONNECTICUT PRESENTATION

Graduate students in a class in Human Sexuality taught by Frederick G. Humphrey, Ed.D., at the University of Connecticut, faculty members and professional guests, including clergy, attended a presentation on transexualism in January. A viewing of the film, "I Am Not This Body," was followed by a stimulating panel discussion and forum led by doctoral candidate in sociology, Deborah Feinbloom, Boston University, Dorothy Deans, pre-operative transexual, and Zelda Suplee.

A comprehensive conference on transexualism in Connecticut is being planned for the fall of this year. Information, when available, will be sent upon request to the Miami office.

1973 SYMPOSIUM PLANNED

Arrangements are underway for the Third International Symposium on Gender Identity to be held at a Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, resort on the Adriatic, September 8-9-10, 1973, sponsored by the Erickson Educational Foundation.

The keen interest evoked by the First Symposium in London, 1969, and the Second in Copenhagen, 1971, reflects the growing worldwide attention to gender identity problems. Further information on the Dubrovnik meeting will be published in this Newsletter as it becomes available. Professionals are invited to make plans to attend and participate.

A WELCOME RETRACTION

We apologize to Miss Alexandra the Great and to the readers of our NEWSLETTER for the incorrect report of her demise, printed in the previous issue. This information came to us from a source which we considered reliable.

Rightfully indignant, she has written us from Hawaii and we are happy to state that she is very much alive and well at this time.

The report of Miss Alexandra the Great's silicone poisoning derived from mammary augmentation is also incorrect.

We regret any distress and inconvenience that may have been caused and are glad to include Miss Alexandra in the distinguished company of Mark Twain whose comment on a similar situation is well known: "The news of my death is greatly exaggerated."

MAMMARY AUGMENTATION

Professional response to our item on the use of silicone injections indicates that the Food and Drug Administration disapproved silicone injections and forbids interstate transportation of the material.

We were advised, "The standard and accepted safe method of breast augmentation is to use a silicone gel prosthesis (siloplastic bag enclosure)."

FEMALE HORMONE PREPARATIONS

In order to prevent misunderstanding, we are printing a clarification approved by Dr. Harry Benjamin, pioneer researcher in the transsexual field and author of *The Transsexual Phenomenon* (Julian Press). Dr. Benjamin was research examiner for Squibb several years ago in the investigation of the German Schering Corp.'s female hormone preparation, Progyon Depot, named by Squibb "Delestrec."

Progyon Depot is used in Germany. It is not available in the United States and may not be imported.

However, an originally German hormone, Progyon, is manufactured here but has a much weaker concentration than the Depot. In suitable cases it is combined with the very potent Delectrogen and a progesterone, Delalutin, with injections given every 2 - 3 weeks.

FILM HONORED

The EEF sponsored documentary film on transsexualism, "I Am Not This Body," produced by Sunrise Films, was selected by a National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences committee for screening at the October Annual Film Festival presented by the Brooklyn Arts & Culture Association and Pratt Institute. A certificate of merit was given to each of the 20 winning film-makers selected out of 200 contestants.

WELCOME ABOARD

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Anke Ehrhardt, former associate of Dr. John Money at the Johns Hopkins Psychohormonal Research Unit, has accepted a post on EEF Advisory Board. Dr. Ehrhardt received her Ph.D. from the University of Dusseldorf in Germany and wrote her thesis on the effects of fetal hormones on sexual differentiation. She has published over twenty papers in the field of hormones and behavior. Under an EEF grant, Dr. Ehrhardt collaborated with Dr. Money on the book "Man and Woman: Dimorphism and Differentiation of Gender Identity" which is being published by Johns Hopkins Press.

Since 1970, Dr. Ehrhardt and her husband, Dr. Heino Meyer-Bahlburg, have developed a new program of Psychoendocrinology in the Dept. of Pediatrics at the State University of New York in Buffalo, which includes the evaluation and treatment of transsexuals. She is currently an Assistant Research Professor in Pediatrics as well as of Psychology in the Dept. of Psychiatry, and has given seminars during the past year at Purdue University, Temple University Medical Center and Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse, N. Y.

ON THE AGENDA

EEF's Marie Mehl will participate in the following meetings in the near future: Feb. 23-25 Conducting a workshop on Sex and the Law, Annual Southern Correctional Institute, Dept. of Criminology, Fla. State University, Tallahassee.

March 16-18 5th Natl. Sex Institute, American Association of Sex Educators and Counselors, Washington, D. C. Informal workshops.

April 28-30 Annual Midwest Regional Meeting, American Humanistic Psychology Association, Chicago. Conducting workshops on humanistic approach to sexual differences—with the cooperation of several transsexuals.

April 25-26 Conducting workshop on transsexualism at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, for medical students from Creighton School of Medicine and the University of Nebraska Medical School.

NEWS FROM NEBRASKA

This is an illustration of the dynamics in one phase of EEF aims. Dr. Duane E. Spiers, Director, Division of Behavioral Sciences, School of Medicine, Creighton University, Omaha, attended Dr. Marie Mehl's workshop at the 1971 National Council on Family Relations meeting.

The transsexual who participated in the workshop moved to Omaha and is under the care of a physician on the faculty of the University of Nebraska Medical School there.

A gender identity team is being formed—consultation and evaluation only—representing various disciplines. There are five individuals now in care.

IN THE PRESS

JOURNAL SPOTLIGHTS TS

The theme of transexualism is predominant in the *Journal of the American Society of Psychosomatic Dentistry and Medicine*, Vol. 18, No. 1, 1971.

Following an editorial by Leo Wollman, M.D., it includes a guest editorial by Harry Benjamin, M.D.; "Transexualism and the Law," by S. A. Strauss, Professor of Law, University of South Africa, Pretoria; "Transexualism—An Insider's View" (author is a 23-year-old male transexual); and "Transexualism and the Philosophy of Healing," by John Money, Ph.D. of the Johns Hopkins Gender Identity team, author of *Sex Errors of the Body* and co-editor with Richard Green, M.D., of *Transexualism and Sex Reassignment* (Johns Hopkins Press).

NEW FORMAT

The January/February 1972 issue of ONE Magazine marks its changing identity into a slick, artistically commendable, larger-size magazine.

States editor Richard Conger, "For the past twenty years ONE Magazine has tried . . . exploring, defining, consciousness-raising for Gay men and women as to who, what and where they are.

"What comes next? The need of the day seems to be in the direction of encouraging and strengthening the still very shaky awareness of their obligations, responsibilities and societal 'placement' by so many in the Homophile Community."

ONE Magazine is published at \$1 per copy; subscriptions \$10 per year. 2256 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90006.

SURGEONS HEAR HOOPES

"TRANSSEXUALS ARE BENEFITED BY SURGICAL SEX REASSIGNMENT. *Surgical sex reassignment may be of value in a limited group of individuals—those who are diagnosed transexuals and, in addition, are good citizens.* Dr. John E. Hoopes, of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, told the American College of Surgeons meeting" in Atlantic City in November.

This is the lead paragraph in the detailed report on his paper appearing in the Nov. 15, 1971, issue of Ob. Gyn News.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If so, please send your new address with zip code, to our Baton Rouge office so that you will continue to remain on our mailing list. We do not charge for Newsletter subscriptions, but appreciate contributions to help support its publication and mailing.

NOW NOT "INCLUDING THE DUTCH"

Protests to the American publisher of the "everything-about-sex" book concerning its unscientific, "insulting and degrading passages about homosexuality" and transexualism have been futile.

The Dutch Society of Homosexuals COC lodged a complaint with the Public Prosecutor at Utrecht against the Dutch publishers, A. W. Bruna & Son. The complaint was dismissed on the basis of freedom of the press although the Prosecutor felt the book was shallow, insignificant and bigoted and he regretted it had appeared on the market.

However, the Central Committee of the COC took it up with the publishing company and reports: ". . . the publishing company gave it as their view that they, regardless of any possible decision of the court, had come to recognize that they had previously decided too hastily and therefore too carelessly upon the translation of the American 'sex-seller.' In regard to the objectionable chapters no difference of opinion existed between the COC and Bruna. The publishing company therefore refrains from further distribution of the book. In Holland, where the integration of the homosexuals is gradually proceeding, this offensive book will not be on sale in the mother tongue any longer."

TV HOTLINE

TV here stands for transvestite. The Transvestite Information Service, established a year ago by Jamie Howell to inform and help transvestites in day to day situations now has a hotline each Sunday noon until 2 PM EST (704) 636-5745. Collect calls cannot be accepted.

A free mimeo newsletter is issued monthly which contains letters from transvestites and family members, information on clothing, make-up, etc. Address: TVIS, P. O. Box 276, Spencer, N. C. 28159.

BEQUEST

A copy of a will was recently received by the Erickson Educational Foundation from a woman who had recently been reassigned from the male role.

After the customary preliminaries which include her original and current names, the document directs ". . . all my property both real and personal including all oil and mineral rights shall belong to the Erickson Educational Foundation now in Baton Rouge. All money is to be used to help people like myself who cannot afford medical expenses for sex change surgery."

We wish our friend a long and rewarding life and deeply appreciate her consideration. The Foundation is not in a position to assist transexuals financially in their treatment, although we understand the financial problems involved in addition to all the other problems of the dilemma. We therefore welcome any contributions such as the above or provisions that might help needy individuals.

USSR PAPER AVAILABLE

A translation of the first Soviet paper on the sex reassignment operation is now available from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce: PB 199029T—"Adaptation of Intersexes to Sex Change" by I. V. Golubeva, Institute of Experimental Endocrinology and Hormone Chemistry, USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, Moscow. Originally published in *Zhurnal Nevropatologii i Psikiatrii imeni S.S. Korsakova*, vol. 70, no. 6, p. 911, the work indicates the similarity of the various aspects of the condition, regardless of geography.

The writer of the report performed 31 sex reassignment operations, as of 1970—13 female to male and 18 male to female.

(NOTE: We are always glad to receive information of interest to our readers.)

NEW STEP FOR AAAS

For the first time in the history of the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), a full day was devoted to parapsychology at the association's annual meeting in December. "Dreams and ESP: An Experimental Approach," covering seven years of experiments at the Maimonides Dream Laboratory, was presented by Dr. Montague Ullman and Dr. Stanley Krippner. Dr. Krippner, an EEF Advisory Board member, also appeared on Philadelphia TV to discuss the AAAS symposium as well as his recent visits with Soviet parapsychologists in Moscow. In this EEF-sponsored visit, Dr. Krippner learned about recent Soviet experiments in telepathy, psychokinesis, acupuncture, and Kirlian photography—a process which appeared to capture on film energy fields which surround living organisms.

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